

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) is the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Nevada County. NCTC coordinates State and Federal transportation programs for Nevada County, the City of Grass Valley, Nevada City, and the Town of Truckee.

NCTC COMMISSIONERS

Kerry Arnett
Mayor of Nevada City

Bruce Conklin
Nevada County Supervisor District 3

Ann Guerra
Member-at-Large

Chet Krage, Chairman
Member-at-Large

Linda Stevens
Mayor of Grass Valley

Josh Susman
Truckee Town Council

Peter Van Zant, Vice-Chairman
Nevada County Supervisor District 1

Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter

Nevada County Transportation Commission
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Nevada City, CA 95959



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The Nevada County Transportation Commission Newsletter is published bimonthly. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please write or call the Nevada County Transportation Commission office.

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NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION NEWSLETTER

Issue 7

September 2001



WHO IS THE "NCTC" AND WHAT DO THEY DO?

The formal answer to this question can be found on page 3 of this newsletter in the Mission Statement and Organization Chart of the NCTC. What we offer here is a more informal portrayal of the organization entitled the "Nevada County Transportation Commission" and of the individuals who serve you.

Even though our name suggests we are a part of the county, we are an independent commission consisting of seven members. Four members are appointed by the Nevada County Board of Supervisors: two members are county supervisors and two are county at-large representatives. These four members are Bruce Conklin, Peter VanZant, Ann Guerra, and Chet Krage. The other three members of the Commission are appointed city/town council members from the three municipalities represented in the County: Kerry Arnett, Linda Stevens, and Josh Susman (see "people" on page 2). Their role as a commissioner is to represent the transportation needs of the jurisdiction that appointed them as well as work with each other to advise and direct staff of the Commission on county-wide projects and priorities.

The staff of NCTC are Daniel B. Landon, Executive Director; Michael Woodman, Assistant Transportation Planner; Nancy Holman, Administrative Services Officer; and Toni Perry, Administrative Assistant. Staff's role is to coordinate planning and communication between Caltrans, the decision makers of the municipalities, and the citizens of Nevada County as it relates to county transportation needs and directives set forth by the Commission. We oversee planning of projects relating to roadways, transit and paratransit systems, bike and pedestrian walkways, railways, and airports in our County. We stay abreast of State legislative issues pertaining to transportation and discuss the stand we will take as a Commission. We also coordinate the use of Transportation Enhancement Activities (TEA) funds. These funds have been used for projects such as the restoration of the historic Bridgeport Covered Bridge, rehabilitation of the Donner Summit Bridge built in 1926, and construction of the Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Museum and Interpretive Center (see article in September 2000 Newsletter).

When transportation planning issues arise that cross county lines, NCTC meets with and works closely with representatives of other counties to coordinate and expedite a solution. A current example of this is our working relationship with Placer County regarding the Truckee area transit system, the Truckee Highway 89 Railroad underpass bottleneck and safety issues (see page 2 of this newsletter for details and the July 2000 Newsletter), and SR 49 corridor issues in south Nevada County (seen in November 2000 and July 2001 Newsletters).

Have you ever wondered what course of action you could take, as a citizen of Nevada County, when you have a transportation concern? You are welcome to write, call, fax, or email our office and detail your concern. Recently a citizen of Grass Valley did just that and the concern received a prompt response (see story on page 2). You can also attend NCTC's monthly meetings held the third Wednesday of each month at 9:00 a.m. in the Grass Valley City Hall. Public comments at these meetings are welcome and you will get the latest updates on local transportation projects.

If you would like further involvement, consider attending our Social Services Transportation Advisory Council meetings (SSTAC – see page 3) which are held in conjunction with unmet transit needs issues. Call our office for dates and times of these meetings.

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Upcoming NCTC Meeting

The next meeting of the Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) will be held **Wednesday, September 19, 2001 at 9:00 A.M.**, in the **Grass Valley City Council Chambers, 125 East Main Street, Grass Valley, California.**



**Nevada County Transportation
Commission Office**

YOU ARE INVITED TO AN "OPEN HOUSE"

The Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC) would like to extend an invitation to the public to come by our offices on September 28, 2001 from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and meet staff. We are located in Nevada City at 101 Providence Mine Road, Suite 102. The Commission is here to represent your transportation needs in Nevada County and this informal open house provides an opportunity to meet you, show you around our office, and explain our function as a transportation commission in the community.

MEET THE PEOPLE OF NCTC

To stay abreast of the transportation needs in a growing community, skilled and dedicated individuals are needed. We think we have “some of the best” people behind the scenes who are committed to work hard to provide futuristic planning concepts while protecting the rural qualities and historic character of the community we love. We introduce your public servants.

“NCTC COMMISSIONERS”

Kerry Arnett, *Mayor of Nevada City*

Kerry represents the City of Nevada City on the Commission. He joined the NCTC shortly after taking office in 1998. Kerry has served as Mayor of Nevada City since March 2000.

Bruce Conklin, *District 3 Supervisor*

Bruce also serves as county representative to the Area 4 Agency on Aging, the Children and Families First Commission and the Solid and Hazardous Waste Commission. He is Chair of the three county Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. Bruce is a member of the Bar Association and works as a forestry contractor.

Ann Guerra, *Member-at-Large*

Ann was appointed to the Commission in October 1997. She is the Executive Director of FREED Center for Independent Living. Ann has been married 27 years to Phil Guerra and has 4 children.

Chet Krage, *Chairman & Member-at-Large*

Chet was appointed to the Commission in 1998 and presently serves as Chairman. He is a 15 year resident of south Nevada County and is a retired executive in the independent electric generation industry in California and other states. Chet founded the CA Biomass Energy Alliance in 1993 to help sustain this renewable energy source.

Linda Stevens, *Mayor of Grass Valley*

Linda has been on the Commission for 5 years and served as Chair for 1 year. She finds it extremely interesting and important work and is grateful to hold both community positions. As Mayor, Linda finds her diversified skills helpful in problem solving and takes an open-minded approach. She owns her own barber shop, has 2 sons and 6 grandchildren.

Josh Susman, *Truckee Town Council*

As a 20 year resident of Truckee, Josh is a Financial Services Professional in the surrounding area. First elected to the Truckee Town Council in 1996, he is committed to maintaining the “small town character” as they plan sensibly for the undeniable growth occurring throughout the county. Josh has been married for 20 years to Jan and has two boys, David (13) and Jonathan (9).

Peter Van Zant, *District 1 Supervisor*

Peter came to Nevada County from the Bay Area and brought with him a writing and consulting business based on his career in micro-chip manufacturing. He is active in community organizations and was elected District 1 County Supervisor in 1996. Peter and his wife Mary spend leisure time canoeing, hiking, and cross country skiing.

“NCTC STAFF”

Daniel B. Landon, *Executive Director*

Dan Landon has been in the transportation planning field for 17 years and has been Executive Director with NCTC since 1990. As a public servant he strives to keep Nevada County residents informed about NCTC’s projects. Dan and his wife Gladys have found Nevada County to be a wonderful place to raise their seven children.

Michael G. Woodman, *Assistant Planner*

Mike graduated from CA State University Chico in June 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and Planning and a minor in Recreation Administration. Mike has been working as the Commission’s Assistant Planner since July 1998. In his spare time he enjoys competing in disc golf tournaments and promotes the sport through involvement in the local Sky Catz Disc Golf Club.

Nancy D. Holman, *Administrative Services Officer*

Nancy has been a Commission staff member since August 1991. She graduated from Chico State University with a B.A. degree in Social Sciences and with an elementary teacher credential. Nancy just celebrated with her husband, Don, his second year of new life with a transplanted heart. She would like everyone to know they are always welcome to call or drop by with questions or suggestions which can assist staff to better serve the community with its transportation needs.

Toni Perry, *Administrative Assistant*

Toni fell in love with Nevada County in 1986 when she attended a bluegrass festival with friends. She lived 14 years in the Bay Area working for a Fortune 500 Company and spent her free time outdoors and going on missionary trips with her church. But Toni missed the rural setting of Michigan where she grew up, so after a four month tour of Europe in 1994, she moved here. She enjoys swimming in the river, walks, fishing, church, fairground activities, and time with friends.

YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Heidi Eigenheer, a Grass Valley citizen, recently wrote a letter to the County Board of Supervisors stating her transportation concern relating to road striping at the northbound Highway 49 Gold Flat Road exit ramp. She requested re-striping to create a right hand turn lane which would allow vehicles to “legally” form two lanes of traffic for right and left-hand turns. NCTC’s Executive Director forwarded the letter to a Caltrans Traffic Operations Division Chief who responded with a letter directly to Heidi promising action. The exit ramp now has preliminary markings painted on it to delineate the right-turn lane. The final re-striping is scheduled in the near future.

“(Your Voice Counts” continued)



Gold Flat Road Exit Ramp
Showing Re-striping Marks

This will accommodate both right and left-turn movements and provide a solution to a safety issue.

We salute a concerned citizen who took the time to write a letter and we want to thank Caltrans for a timely and positive response.

PROJECT IN TRUCKEE

If you have driven along Highway 89 in Truckee, you probably have seen this Union Pacific Railroad under-crossing. Can you tell from the picture how this area got the nickname of “mousehole”?



Truckee “Mousehole”

The Nevada County Transportation Commission is working closely with Caltrans to provide a short and long-term solution to the traffic bottleneck and the pedestrian/bikeway hazards created by this narrow passageway. Caltrans is scheduled to install warning signs and flashing lights this month to draw attention to this potentially hazardous area on Highway 89.

NCTC is working on a project concept and funding available to bring about a permanent improvement to the mousehole. A project study report is nearing completion which is the first step necessary for a project of this magnitude and expense. NCTC and Caltrans will work with the Town of Truckee, and with the Union Pacific Railroad who owns the structure, to create suitable construction plans to improve this heavily traveled roadway in Truckee. Placer County planners have shown interest in this project as well.

NEVADA COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CREATING A BETTER FUTURE BY BUILDING UPON
THE SUCCESSES OF THE PAST



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Nevada County Transportation Commission is to plan, communicate, and coordinate with the citizens and decision makers of Grass Valley, Nevada City, Nevada County, and the Town of Truckee, and with Caltrans to identify transportation needs, propose solutions, and assist in implementing projects to create a balanced regional transportation system, while protecting the rural qualities and historic character of Nevada County.

Activities To Achieve The Mission, Include, But Are Not Limited, To The Following

NCTC develops a Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which includes the actions, funding recommendations, and policy direction necessary to meet the needs of each transportation system component in the region.

NCTC interacts with the community through workshops, news media, the Internet, and its bimonthly newsletter.

NCTC develops and adopts a Regional Transportation Improvement Program that is consistent with the RTP.

NCTC conducts a comprehensive planning process in the development of its annual Overall Work Program so that funds expended on planning projects will implement the goals of the RTP.

NCTC reviews transportation plans and programs of member agencies and endorses them based on consistency with the RTP and RTIP. In keeping with this responsibility, the NCTC strives to be creative in assisting the region in developing the revenues to construct improvement projects.

NCTC communicates and participates in workshops with Caltrans on proposed projects to be developed in the County of Nevada to ensure that the policies and goals of the RTP are implemented.

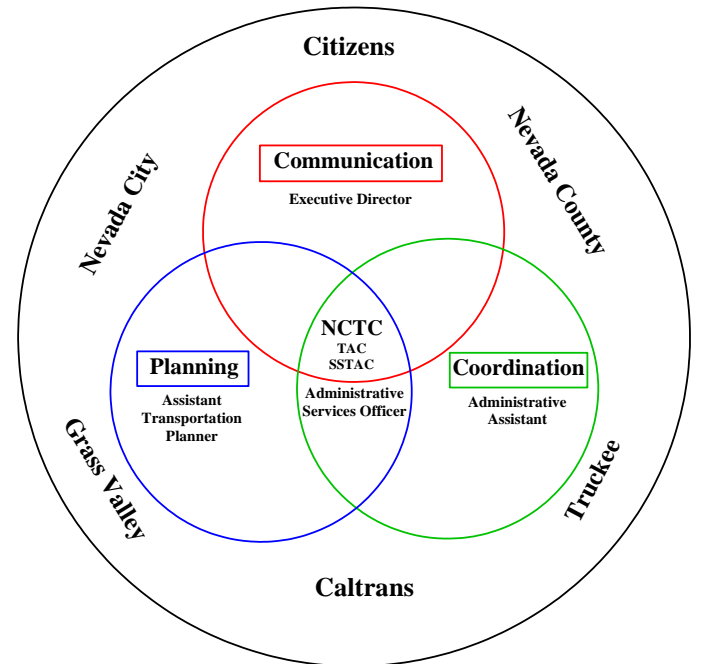
NCTC coordinates with regional transportation planning agencies on legislation and statewide policy issues to ensure the region receives appropriate attention and funding from the State of California and the Federal government.

NCTC participates in interregional planning projects to ensure Nevada County projects support both regional and statewide transportation goals.

NCTC administers Transportation Development Act funds to ensure all statutory requirements are met, including the identification of the region’s transit needs.

NCTC manages Regional Surface Transportation Program funds and Regional Improvement Program funds in accordance with Federal acts and statutes promulgated by the State of California, selecting and funding eligible transportation improvement projects based upon those that are most effective and beneficial to the region.

NCTC Organization Flow Chart



Nevada County Transportation Commission (NCTC)

NCTC is a Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) created pursuant to Title 7.88, of the State of California Government Code, Section 67920. As the RTPA for Nevada County, the NCTC coordinates transportation planning for Grass Valley, Nevada City, Nevada County, and the Town of Truckee.

The NCTC board has seven members. Four members are appointed by the Board of Supervisors and three are appointed by the incorporated municipalities in the County. The Board of Supervisors appoints two members from the Board of Supervisors and two County at-large representatives. The municipalities have appointed three city/town council members; one each from Nevada City, Grass Valley, and the Town of Truckee.

Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

The TAC is made up of representatives of public transit operators, local public works and planning departments, public airport operators, the air pollution control district, and Caltrans. The Committee provides technical input on transportation issues and ensures there is coordination and cooperation in the transportation planning process.

Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)

The SSTAC is made up of potential transit users who are seniors and/or disabled, social service providers for seniors and disabled and persons of limited means, local social service and consolidated transportation providers, and Truckee residents who represent the senior community. The goal of the SSTAC is to maintain and improve transportation services to the residents of Nevada County, particularly the elderly and disabled. The SSTAC recommends action by the Commission relative to the unmet transit needs finding, and advises the Commission on transit issues, including coordination and consolidation of specialized transportation services.